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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.												
10/054,825	01/23/2002	Kazuaki Onishi	SHC0167	7787												
7590 Michael S Gzybowski Butzel Long 350 South Main Street Suite 300 Ann Arbor, MI 48104		06/14/2007	<table border="1"><tr><td colspan="2">EXAMINER</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">ANDERSON, CATHARINE L</td></tr><tr><td>ART UNIT</td><td>PAPER NUMBER</td></tr><tr><td>3761</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>MAIL DATE</td><td>DELIVERY MODE</td></tr><tr><td>06/14/2007</td><td>PAPER</td></tr></table>		EXAMINER		ANDERSON, CATHARINE L		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3761		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	06/14/2007	PAPER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,825

Applicant(s)

ONISHI ET AL.

Examiner

C. Lynne Anderson

Art Unit

3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4 April 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the curvature of the upper and lower absorbent structures of Chmielewski, it is noted that Chmielewski discloses that the curvature of the upper and lower absorbent structures about the longitudinal axis may be omitted from the garment. In order to still provide a pocket between the upper and lower absorbent structures, as shown by Chmielewski in figure 6, it would be obvious to space the upper absorbent structure above the lower absorbent structure to provide the pocket without any curvature to the absorbent structures.

It is further noted that the attachment of the upper absorbent structure of Chmielewski to either the topsheet or the barrier cuffs would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, since the location of attachment solves no stated problem and serves no particular purpose, and both attachment locations result in functionally equivalent structures.

In response to the applicant's argument that Chmielewski provides no teaching that the barrier cuffs support the curvature of the upper absorbent structure, it is noted that Chmielewski discloses in column 3, lines 39-44, that the contraction of the barrier cuffs encourage the upper absorbent structure to rise up.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chmielewski et al. (6,699,228).

Chmielewski discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of the opposite side edges of the supplementary absorbent batt assembly being space apart upwardly from the body facing surface of the primary absorbent batt assembly by a height of the barrier cuffs.

Chmielewski discloses a diaper, as shown in figure 1, comprising a primary absorbent batt assembly 34, a pair of barrier cuffs 501, and a supplementary absorbent batt assembly 70. The primary absorbent batt assembly 34 has a body facing surface sheet 30, a garment facing surface sheet 32, a front waist region 22, a rear waist region 24, and a crotch region 26. The barrier cuffs 501 have a proximal edge portion 304 and a distal edge portion 503, and extend along transversely opposite sides of the primary absorbent batt assembly 34 so as to rise up from the body facing surface, as shown in figure 2. The supplementary absorbent batt assembly 70 has a body facing surface 704 and an opposite surface 706, as shown in figure 2. The supplementary absorbent batt assembly 70 also has a proximal end portion 724 and distal end portion 728, as shown in figure 1, the proximal end portion 724 lying the front waist region 22. The distal end

portion 728 is spaced apart upwardly from the primary absorbent batt assembly 34 to define a pocket opening 80 when under tension from, and therefore supported by, the barrier cuffs 501, as shown in figure 3 and described in column 3, lines 39-44.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to space the opposite side edges of the supplementary absorbent batt assembly being spaced apart upwardly from the body facing surface of the primary absorbent batt assembly, since the applicant has not shown that this configuration serves any stated purpose or solves any stated problem, and it appears the invention would perform equally well with the opposite side edges of the supplementary absorbent batt assembly being spaced slightly apart from or attached to the body facing surface of the primary absorbent batt assembly, since either configuration allows for the formation of a pocket opening between the supplementary and primary absorbent batt assemblies, thus allowing the invention to perform equally well either way.

With respect to claim 2, the primary absorbent batt assembly comprises a liquid pervious topsheet 30, a liquid impervious backsheet 32, and a liquid absorbent first core 34, as shown in figure 2.

With respect to claim 3, the supplementary absorbent batt assembly 70 comprises a liquid absorbent second core 702 and a liquid pervious sheet 704, as shown in figure 2.

With respect to claim 4, the barrier cuffs 501 include elastic members 504, as shown in figure 2.

With respect to claim 5, the distal end portions 503 of the barrier cuffs 501 are positioned inwardly of the proximal end portions 304, as shown in figure 2.

With respect to claim 6, a pair of gasket cuffs 302 extend outwardly from the transverse opposite side edges of the liquid absorbent first core 34, as shown in figure 2.

With respect to claim 7, the gasket cuffs include elastic members 36, as shown in figure 2.

With respect to claim 8, the proximal ends 304 of the barrier cuffs 501 are attached to the gasket cuffs 302.

With respect to claim 11, the supplementary absorbent batt assembly 70 comprises a higher percentage of superabsorbent material than the primary absorbent batt assembly 34, as disclosed in column 9, lines 22-23, and column 10, lines 54-59, and therefore has a higher absorbing capacity.

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chmielewski et al. (6,699,228) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Onishi (JP1996-196565A).

Chmielewski discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of a second supplementary absorbent batt assembly. Onishi discloses a diaper having a supplementary absorbent batt assembly located in the front waist region, as shown in figure 1. Onishi further discloses a second supplementary absorbent batt assembly located in the rear waist region and smaller than the supplementary absorbent batt

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assembly, the second supplementary absorbent batt assembly forming a pocket between the crotch region and the rear waist region, as shown in figure 2. The second supplementary absorbent batt assembly provides a way to trap waste and minimize contact of the waste with the wearer of the diaper, as described in paragraph 16. It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to construct the diaper of Chmielewski with a second supplementary absorbent batt assembly, as taught by Onishi, to trap waste and minimize contact of the waste with the wearer of the diaper.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-4 and 9 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3-5 of U.S. Patent No.

6,921,394. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the patented claims disclose all limitations of the instant claims but discloses a disposable wearable article rather than a disposable diaper.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent 5,558,660 discloses an upper absorbent batt that is attached to the distal edge of a pair of barrier cuffs, as shown in Figure 7.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

UA
cla
June 7, 2007

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

